

Information

Boston

1648

was read."

'90 Pride: Benjamin Incest

An anonymous letter written by a Bostonian in 1907 to the Scientific Humanitarian Committee, the German group believed to be the first gay emancipation

Bay Village and the Theatre District

- The Napoleon Club-52 Piedmont St.- Opened in 1929, The Napoleon Club is a piece of living history. Housing a homosexual subculture in the '40s, it became exclusively gay in 1952. The dignified piano bar, with gilded wallpaper and uniformed bartenders, seems immune to vagaries of fashion. Regular crooners have been joined by such luminaries as Liberace and the Queen of Queens herself, Judy Garland, who visited the club every night for a week shortly before her suicide.
- The Punchbowl-232 Stuart St.- It was the place to be on the day of the annual Beaux Arts Ball, and on any given night one could expect a waiting line of several hundred. As one of Boston's best known early gay bars, a typical crowd in the '50s and '60s would be heavy on students, with some drag queens, hustlers and professionals. It closed in 1970 when the property was bought by the city.
- Park Square and The Greyhound Bus Station formed a hub of gay action in the late '50s and early '60s. Located in the Statler building was the Hayes Bickford, a popular after hours gay club in the '50s. John Preston described his experiences in Park Sq. as a teenage hustler, "I was given a great deal of affection by the men I found in the alleys off Park Sq. I was guarded by a flock of black drag queens who just loved to mother a young boy from the country." The queens of Park Sq. became models for characters in his novel, Franny, the Queen of Provicetown.
- Jacques-79 Broadway- Opening iits doors in 1939, Jacques was a popular lesbian establishment in the early "70s. In 1975 it began having the drag shows that, along with a strong cross-dressing crowd are now its trademark
- The Other Side-78 Broadway Opened from 1965-76, it was the bar to go to in its day. Among the many performers appearing there were David Bowie, and drag sensation Sylvia Sidney.

Cavana's-335 Tremont St. NLS-A women's bar in the '50s, Cavana's clientele included many out, self-idenified and rough lesbians. When it was threatened with closure by the Alchohol Licensing Board unless the "girls" wore skirts, patrons took the brave, and for that time, unusual step of picketing the police station

- Carver St. NLS- Carver ran through what is now the Transportation Building, and is the site of two gay landmarks. Opened in 1959, 12 Carver was a venerable piano bar. Upstairs was the early leather bar, Herbie's Ramrod Room, precursor to the Boston Ramrod now located on Boylston St. [44]. At 18 Carver was the Lundin Turkish Baths, known as "Our Lady of the Vapors." It is reputed to have been visited by Malclom X immediately upon his elease from prison.
- Parkman Bandstand-Boston Common- On June 18, 1977 Gay Pride Rally keynote speaker Charles Shively staged an infamous display of radicalism. In condemnation of Prudential Insurance for not allowing him to list his lover on his policy, he burned the document. Also burned were copies of his Harvard diploma and the state sodomy laws. Finally, after reading from the Bible the condemnation of homosexuality in Leviticus, it also was burned. This action spurred heated debate within the lesbian and gay community.
- Tremont Temple- Shortly before her death in 1993 to breast cancer, poet Audre Lorde was honored in a conference here for her work in the struggles for the civil rights of lesbians and women of color. Hundred's of people from all over the U.S. attended this event which was organized by Boston lesbians. Down the street at the Music Hall [45] on Winter and Tremont streets, Oscar Wilde delivered his second Boston lecture.
- Playland-21 Essex St.- Described by its manager as a bar for "drugs, drags and dysfunctionals," Playland is the oldest continually operating gay bar in Boston. Opened in 1937, it has attracted a gay clientele since the '40s. Despite a "perennial Christmas-in-the-dungeon" decor, Playland has a history of good works, serving Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to homeless gays
- Club La Grange Bath-4 Lagrange St.- Unused but recently renovated, this H.H. Richardson building held Boston's outlet of the Club Bath chain. Remembered by writer Michael Bronski, who worked there as a towel boy 1978-79, for its lunchtime businessmen crowd, Club LaGrange was at the forefront of pre-AIDS gay health concerns in offering weekly VD testing.
- 12 22 Bromfield St.- A mid-70's gay community center of sorts, 22 Bromfield provided space for such groups as the Glad Day Bookshop, which can now be found at 673 Boylston[46]; Boston Asian Gay Men and Lesbians, the first gay asian group in North America; the Black Men's Caucus; the Committee for Gay Youth; and Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates. Also housed here were Gay Community News, Fag Rag (an important journal), and the first meeting of the Boston Area Lesbian & Gay History Project in February 1980. Its bathroom is recalled as perhaps the only co-gender public sex spot in the city. A fire, reputedly at the hands of Boston fire fighters, ended its history as queer space. At 30 Bromfield St. was Other Voices, Boston's first gay bookstore.
- 13 Pilgrim Theater-658 Washington-Built in 1912, this combat zone porn movie house is the oldest continually operating theater in Boston. Its site is now slated for demolition and redevelopment.
- 14 Jolar Cinema- Essex and Washington-The 1975 arrest of a radio personality and gay activist here for open and lewd behavior resulted in the an important public sex court ruling. The defense succesfully argued that because the defendant's actions took place behind closed doors they were private. The
- 15 Somewhere-295 Franklin St.- From 1977 through the mid-'80s, this was the lesbian bar in Boston. Managed by former Liason to the Gay and Lesbian Community and Chief of Health and Human Services, Ann Maguire, it was a major stop on the lesbian folk music circuit, and the site of many hot nights of dancing. Closed due to fire in '83, it reopened as Somewhere Else. Upstairs was a men's health club/bath, the Spa Over Somewhere.

The Massachusetts Body of Laws and Liberties was published in 1648, and was the first collection of laws in the colonies. Execution was madated for the crime of "sodomy." After the unification of the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colonies, a 1697 revision to this statute includes references to bestiality, and renames the crime "buggery." An Act for the Punishment of Buggery was drafted to read, "...And that every Man, being duly convicted of lying with Mankind, as he lieth with a Woman; and every Man or Woman that shall have carnal Copulation with any Beast or Brute Creature, the Offender and Offenders, in either of the Cases before mentioned, shall sufffer the Pains of Death, and the Beast shall be slain and burnt." Buggery was a capital crime in Massachusetts until 1805.

Elizabeth Johnson, a servant in Essex County, Massachusetts, was sentenced to be fined and "severely whipped" for "unseemly practices" with another maid, and for "stubborness to her mistress" and "stopping her ears...when the Word of God

The first house on Pinckney St., now number five, was erected by a "muatto barber" named Louis Clapion and a Black coachman, George Middleton, a life-long bachelor and a leader of a celebrated all-Black regiment in the Revolutionary War. At his death in 1815, he left all his posessions to "my good friend Trustom Babcock", a mariner who lived on

In Mt. Auburn Cemetary [x] in Cambridge, a sculpture by the prominant 19th century African American / Native American lesbian artist Edmonia Lewis [A] can be seen, as well as the grave of her friend Charlotte Cushman [1816-1876] who, as the most famous Shakespearean actress of her day, played Romeo to many other actress' Juliet. She spoke frequently of her numerous intimate relationships with women, the most famous of which was with sculptor Emma Stebbins, who wrote Cushman's biography. Another important sculptor and Cushman flame represented at Mt. Auburn is Harriet Hosmer,

Now one of Boston's foremost cultural institutions, what is now the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum was known as the point of liaison be hetero and homo Boston. Isabella Stewart Gardner's circle of friends included U.S. Representative, **A. Piatt Andrew**; **Henry Sleeper**, the foremost interior decorator of the day; and architect **Ralph Adams Cram**[x]. Her closest friend was the painter John Singer Sargent [1856-1925] who, when Gardner's Venetian style pallazzo was completed in 1904, made a studio out of the Gothic Room, where his famous portrait of Gardner now hangs. Sargent, whose homosexual leanings can perhaps be seen in his nude portrait of his valet, also painted murals in the old rotunda at the Museum of Fine Arts, just next door, and at the Boston Public Library.

We are everywhere 1000 We will be free!

The diary of Richard Cowan, which is held at the Boston Atheneum, chronicles a very gay life in the 20's and 30's in Boston. One entry from mentions the Monarch Club [465 Stuart St. 1933-34, and 477 Stuart St.1935-1937], which may have been a neighborhood forerunner of the more famous and longer-lived Punchbowl [2], and the larger cruising, hustling and drag scene at Park Square in the 50's, 60's and 70's. The entry reads, "One night at the Monarch Club I met a boy whom I had seen once before at the Copley Theatre and once on the subway."

> Harvard professor, literarary critic, socialist and "father of American Studies" F.O. Matthiessen jumped to his death from a room on the 12th floor of the Hotel Manger in this year. Matthiessen's depression was fueled by the anti-communist and and anti-gay witch hunts of the time, and by the death of his lover, painter Russel Cheney. Their 20- year love affair is chronicled in a book of their correspondence, The Rat and the Devil. Lesbian writer,

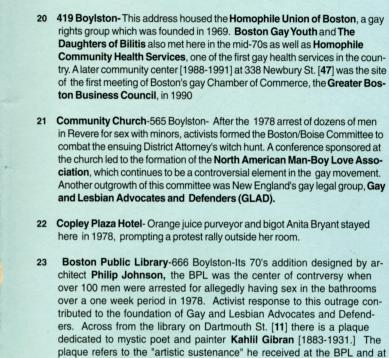
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(31)

END

May Sarton, used Mattiessen as the basis of her book, Faithful are the



16 The Saints -112 Broad St.- Opened in '74,ing, this lesbian bar fea-

17 The Cowardly Lion- Alleyway next to The Colonial Theater- The Cowardly

Back Bay

18 The Block- Known in the '50s as Vaseline Alley, the block abutting The

Public Gardens was famous for both its gay cruising and for the nasty cops

who patrolled there. In the '70s an influx of male and female prostitutes re-

sulted in the creation of an inconvenient pattern of one way streets. The

19 Gibson House- 137 Beacon St.- Open to the Public, Gibson House

is a shrine to Victorian taste and style preserved by the flamboyant ho-

mosexual Charles Hammond Gibson, Jr. [1874-1954]. Gibson, who

employed a series of young working class men as live-in personal ser-

vants, shocked prudish Bostonians by appearing around town in silk paiamas. A minor poet and travel writer, he is remembered for promoting the construction of the Beaux-Arts restrooms on the Boston Com-

mon in the 1910's while a member of the Boston Park and Recreation

Commission. This building, which is located near the tennis courts,

Lion is reputed to be the first Boston gay bar with a back room.

Saints closed in '82 and is sorely missed.

neighborhood then regressed to a quieter state.

became known as "Gibson's Folly".

tured a room for dancing and was run by an interracial collective. The

48 Arlington St. Church- For the past 30 years, this Unitarian Universalist church has been gay positive. Many groups have met here, including The Homophile Union of Boston, Boston Unitarian Universalist Gavs and Lesbians, Dignity-Boston, and the Boston Gay Men's Chorus, which rehearsed here until 1994. The first same-sex marriage was held here in 1973. and the church's senior minister, Rev. Kim K. Crawford Harvie is a lesbian.

was believed to be a homosexua

Dennison Settlement House[16] . Gibran, a protege of F. Holland Day

Downtown [cont.]

- 24 Denison House-93 Tyler St. NLS- Founded in 1892 by Wellesley College professor Vida Dutton Scudder, settlement houses were created to ease immigrant transition to American culture. Scudder maintained a Boston marriage with Florence Converse, author of the lesbian overtoned novel Diana Victrix [1897]. Settlement houses are widely held to be the birthplace of our modern social service system. Dennison House is now located in Uphams Corner, Dorcheste
- 25 Claddagh Restaurant-113 Dartmouth St.- Boston's chapter of the Log Cabin Club, the national group of conservative gays and lesbians meets here. This chapter grew out of Michael Duffy's unsuccessful 1988 bid to unseat state representative Byron Rushing. Duffy was later appointed to head the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination by then newly elected Governor William Weld.
- 26 Rustlers-Chandler and Berkeley- Now the gay bar Fritz, the appearance of this and other bars in the South End in the early '80's was a visible sign of the increased gay presence in this part of the city. The South End now has the highest per capita population of gay people in Boston. Jamaica Plain, which is the location of the offices for the lesbian feminist journal Sojourner, as well as the women's bookstore Crone's Harvest, has, along with Somerville, a strong lesbian constituency.
- 27 Gay Community News-62 Berkeley St.- At its founding in 1973, GCN was the only national weekly covering gay and lesbian issues. A crucial forum for analysis and debate, GCN helped shape the early lesbian and gay liberation movement. The paper closed due to financial pressure just shy of its 20th anniversary, but returned as a monthly in April of '95. GCN presently operates out of 25 West St.
- 28 1523 Washington St.-This is the location of the offices of the newspaper Bay Windows, which was founded in 1982 by Sasha Alyson. Alyson is also the founder of Alyson Publications, which has published The Men with the Pink Triangle, and the first anthology of writings by Black gay men, In the Life, which was edited by Joseph Beam.

- 29 The Shed-272 Huntington-This popular racially mixed bar was the type of place that defined the leather/denim clone. A '76 guide notes" The interior decor is early farmhand, but the macho costumery more than compensates. Marlboro Man meets Lexington Lumberiack...bandanas by the score."
- 30 The Fenway Victory Gardens- Important to gays as both a community garden and a cruise area, it was the site of controversy recently when the tall reeds which grow there were cut down. In addition to providing cover for encounters between men, the reeds were also a convenient environment for many bashings and murders. In the Fenway Rose Garden is a freestanding memorial to lesbian poet, Katherine Lee Bates, author of "America the Beautiful".

Gov. William Weld passed the Gay Student Rights Bill, Which protects lesbian and gay youth from discrimination in public schools based on their sexual orientation. The efforts of groups such as Boston Area Gay and Lesbian Youth, as well as individuals such as David LaFontaine were instrumental in its passage. In May of 1995, the Youth Committee of the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth sponsored the first annual State-Wide Gay Youth Pride March

An 1993 AIDS prevention ad campaign by the AIDS Action Committee. scheduled to be posted on the MBTA. The MBTA called the ads too controversial, and refused to post them. On Nov. 9, 1994, The First Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the MBTA had violated AAC's First Ammendment rights in their refusal to post the ads, and the campaign was installed on busses and trains in December of 1994.

Mayor Tom Menino and the Boston City Council passed domestic partner-

1974 The first Gay Pride March took place in June of this year. 150 participants met at Jacques in Bay Village and paraded through the city. Speeches denouncing lesbian and gay persecution were delivered at the police headtime it was voted on by the House. This legeslation was drafted at Noble's Back-Bay Home, which she shared with then partner, Rita Mae Brown,

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the 1970s one of the most active gay community centers in the city. The first issue of Gay Community News was printed here, and weekly dances were sponsored by the Gay Liberation Front. One of the first programs for gay teens, Project Lambda, met here ; supported in part by federal funding and run through the mayor's office. This was also the site of the Meetinghouse Coffeehouse, a cafe popular among mid-70's gay libbers.

In November of 1982, the first "AIDS Forums" were held at the Fenway Community Health Center. At this time, there were 13 cases of AIDS in Massachusetts, and 5 deaths. On February 16, a group that had been meeting at Fenway officially adopted the name AIDS Action Committee. Presently located at 131 Clarendon St, AAC serves 1400 men, women and children

Haith, which revealed that two Boston men, David Jean and Don Babbits, were foster parenting two children resulted in the immediate removal of the children from their home. Legislation was then passed by the state Equality Defense Committee, the Gay and Lesbian Foster Care Association, the Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, and the Massa-chusetts Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus began to stage rallies and protests denouncing this policy at the State House, City Hall, and the Governor's residence. This policy remained in effect until 1988, when it was rescinded

In March of this year, members of Act-Up Boston staged a protest at Massachusetts General Hospital urging the availability of aerosol pentamidine to people with AIDS. The drug is a prophylaxis for pneumocystis carnii pneumonia, an oportunistic infection that kills many people with AIDS. The protest received national attention and helped to speed the release of the drug.

Massachusetts House and Senate, and was signed into law by Governor William Weld. The lesbian and gay community had stepped up actions in

Elaine Noble was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in this year, becoming the first openly gay person to hold state-wide office in the country. She and Barney Frank sponsored the state's gay rights bill the first

author of Rubyfruit Jungle. Several households of gay men who lived collectively in the Fort Hill section 1985 of Roxbury began to call themselves the Fort Hill Faggotts for Freedom. Instrumental in neighborhood politics, they helped create a visible gay pres-

The Charles Street Meeting House at 70 Charles Street was throughout

Charles Street Meeting House

with AIDS and HIV symptomatic dise

prohibitting gay people from becoming foster parents. Groups such as Foster

A report sent to Gov. Michael Dukakis by conservative politician Benjamin

the years immediately preceding its passage. In 1988, a "Speak Out" event was held outside the State House by the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus in which lesbians and gay men gave testimony to discrimination they had suffered because of their sexual orientation, and a massive civil disobedience took place in the the State House in 1989 [a]. Massachusetts was the second state after Wisconsin to pass legislation protecting the civil rights of lesbians and gay men.

quarters at Stuart and Berkeley, the State House, and at St. Paul's Cathedral on Tremont Street. The march ended at the Bandstand in Boston Common. One of the most important providers of health care to Boston's gay community, the **Fenway Community Health Center** [B] was started as a community based free clinic by **David Scondras** and Linda Beane. Run by volun-

teers for much of its early years, a gay men's health collective that began in 1973 was the start of Fenway's fulfillment of a mission to serve the health needs of lesbians and gay men. Since the beginning of the epidemic, Fenway has been at the forefront of care for people with AIDS, and conducts research that is both academically important and rooted in the needs of the community. Fenway's new building at 7 Haviland St. was financed partially through the efforts of Gay Labor activists, who held a large scale benefit with

Cesar Chavez. Currently, Men of Color Against AIDS [MOCCA] meets

E

ACT UP protest at MGH

Photo: Marilyn Hump GCN Photo Archives

who was burried here in 1908

CAMBRIDGE

FENWA

(See Inset Other Side)

See Beacon Hill

Inset Other Side

and Scollay Square

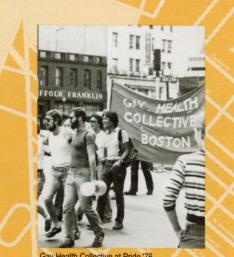
BEACO 2 Prockney: U St St

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North End 31 Elizabeth Bishop-Lewis Warf- In 1974, Pulitzer Prize winning poet Bishop moved to this early gentrification effort, where she died in 1979. Bishop's lesbianism is now recognized as integral to her poetry.

32 Edith Guerrier-3A North Bennet St.- In 1910, Guerrier opened the first public library branch in the North End. In her autobiography, An Independent Woman, she writes of her long romance with Edith Brown, with whom she opened a pottery studio in Brighton in 1915. Free training was offered to young women there, and the pottery Guerrier and Brown produced is now highly prized.

GCN Photo Archive



After a sixteen year struggle, the Massachusetts Gay Rights Bill passed the

ship legislation, which gives limitted rights to gay couples in Boston.



- Scollay Square NLS Speakeasies in the 20's and 30's, such as Crawford House were places where gay people met during Prohibi-
- 81 Old West Church-131 Cambridge St.- Services of the Metropolitan Community Church are held here. MCC was founded by gay rights pioneer Troy Perry, who spoke here in 1972. The predecessor oraganization to Boston's community of lesbian, gay and bisexual Jews, Am Tikva met here. Founded in '77, Am Tikva now meets at Temple Sinai in Brookline
- 78 JFK Federal Building-City Hall Plaza- To protest the war in Indochina, Gay Liberation Front activists gathered on Tax Day in 1970.
- 79 City Hall- 1984 marked the passage of the Boston Human Rights Ordinance, the first legislation in the state to protect the civil rights of lesbians and gays. Written by openly gay city councilor David Scondras, it is seen as a precursor to state-wide civil rights protection in 1989. Mayor Flynn's failure to promptly appoint a commission led to a sit-in by gay activists at his residence.



The Amazon Cross-Dressers, an group of crossdressers, pre/ post-operative transexuals, transgenders meets here. Founded in '90, an off-shoot of AXA is the group Transgender Pride, which organizes participation in Pride celebrations by the gender community. The International Foundation for Gender Education, an organization founded in 1986, serves as a education and information resource for 300 transgender groups and 10,000 individuals worldwide. Located in Waltham, IFGE publishes the TV/TS Tapestry. Enterprise, a peer support group for female-to-male transexuals meets in Jamaica Plain, and conducts educational workshops in

schools, religious organizations, the medical and gay communities.

- 60 Gay Male Liberation-91 River St.- Now called the Lucy Parson Bookstore, this group met here in the early 70's when it was called
- 61 WCAS-380 Green St.-The first gay radio show in Boston aired here. "Closet Space" was hosted by Charles Bedard, Cambridge City Councilor Katherine Triantafillou, and by former state rep.
- 62 888 Memorial Drive-Saturday, March 6, 1971 over 200 women occupied this Harvard-owned building forten days. This protest was undertken to dramatize the need for a community-based Women's Center. Many women 'came out' during this ten day occupation, and the foundation of the Women's Resource Center [x], and Gay Women's Liberation (later Lesbian Liberation) were a di-

Beacon Hill, Scollay Square

- 66 The Church of St. John the Evangelist-35 Bowdoin St.- This church was the meeting spot of the Homophile Union of Boston and the Student Homophile League, two early gay groups, and is the meeting place of Boston Area Gay and Lesbian Youth [BAGLY]. It is also the site of services for Dignity, the gay Catholic group. St. John's has blessed gay marriages of parish members since 1990.
- 67 Esplanade Paperback-107 Charles St.-Reputed to have a cruisy poetry section, this early gay-run bookstore also sold pornography and
- 68 Sarah Orne Jewett-148 Charles St.-NLS- Jewett, the author of novels The Country of Pointed Firs and Deephaven resided here 30 years with companion Annie Fields until her death in 1909.
- 69 F. Holland Day 9 Pinckney St. A leader in the aesthetic group The Decadents, Day [1864-1933] was famous as a photographer obsessed with the male form and as a mentor to many young men whom he photographed, including Kahlil Gibran. Friendly with Oscar Wilde and Aubrey Beardsley, his studio was located here from 1894 to the turn of the century when a fire destroyed virtually all his prints and negatives. Though he continued to produce brilliant work, his reputation dwindled, and has only recently been revived.
- 70 Henry David Thoreau-4 Pinckney St.- The author of Walden resided here. A memorable metaphor attributed to him is "These young buds of manhood in the streets are like buttercups in the meadows."
- 71 Louisa May Alcott-43 Pinckney St.- The author of the ever-popular Little Women, she presented the Boston marriage as an ideal arrangement in An Old Fashioned Girl. She was very close with other Boston feminists Charlotte Cushman [Miss Cameron in Jo's Boys] and Emma Stebbins. She lived here in
- 72 Ralph Adams Cram-99 PinckneySt.- America's greatest church architect, he designed the interior of The Lady Chapel at The Church of the Advent as well as many other buildings in the Boston area. An important figure in Boston's arts scene in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, he was friendly with Isabella
- 73 67 Mount Vernon Street- Home of Edward Perry Warren (1860-1928), who rejected life in Boston, and "the traditions of Puritanism, the ugliness of the men and the absence of aesthetic sympathy" and moved to Europe where he collected antiquities for the Museum of Fine Arts (including homoerotic Greek vases, which were kept from public view for many years) and authored the notorious A Defense of Uranian Love, a study of boy-love in ancient Greece (1928).
- 74 112 Charles St.- The garden at this address was designed by architect Eleanor Raymond in 1926, who practiced in the Boston area until the late 40's. Interested in the integration of architecture, technology and landscape, she maintained a Boston marriage with Ethel Power.
- 75 Prescott Townsend-15 Lindall Pl.- Founder of Boston chapter of the Mattachine Society in 1959, Townsend, an experimental architect by profession, lobbied for the repeal of the state's sex laws, which stipulated 20 years' imprisonment for "the abomidable and detestable crime against nature." After Mattachine dissolved in 1961, he founded the Boston Demophile Society. He died in 1973.
- 76 Sporters-228 Cambridge St.- A Beat poet hangout before it became a gay bar in 1957. Sporters became the most popular gay bar in New England after it was mentioned in John Reid's 1973 autobiography The Best Little Boy in the World
- 77 Gerry Sawyer Square-Cambridge and Garden Sts.- A few yards from Sporters a sign marks this street intersection in honor of Gerry Sawyer, a bartender at Sporters and community activist. Sawyer, who lived on Garden St. died of AIDS in 1985 and is remembered as a local hero. His name is misspelled on the plaque.

50 Bread and Roses-134 Hampshire Street-1974-78- Bread and Roses and its successor Amaranth were women owned restaurants and cultural centers. Audre Lorde, Ntozake Shange, Tillie Olsen, Alice Walker, Kate Millet

and a variety of artists were showcased regularly. This was where meetings were held for the Bessie Smith Memorial Production Collective, a black feminist musical/artistic group of the mid-70s. These restaurants

and their counterpart Beetles Lunch in Allston were important places for

51 New Words-186 Hampshire Street- Founded in 1974 by a women's col-

lective, New Words is now the major lesbian/feminist bookstore in the Boston area. The original location of New Words was in Somerville. Also

the same address was focus counselling for women. Across the street

52 Cambridge Women's Center-46 Pleasant St.- Founded in 1971, this still active resource center was the meeting place of the Combahee River Collective, which was founded in Roxbury in 1974 by Barbara Smith and

violence against women and racism, sexism and heterosexism within our

much of its leadership and many of its members were lesbians. The Cen-

society. The group did a great deal of work around murders of black

ter was also the meeting place for the Lesbian Therapy Research

53 Old Cambridge Baptist Church-1151 Mass. Ave- Since the late '70s this has been where the Daughters of Bilitis has met. D.O.B. was the first lesbian

rights group in the nation, and this is the sole remaining chapter in the country Also located here is the local headquarters of the National Lesbian and Gav

54 Harvard and Radcliffe- A roster of queer luminaries to have either taught or studied here- or had sex in the bathrooms- would be long indeed. Such a homophilic list would no doubt include, writers Gertrude Stein, Horatio Alger Adrienne Rich and Frank O'Hara; openly gay Mass. congressman Barney Frank; and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson, who authored many journal

entries referring to his infatuation with fellow undergraduate Martin Gay. While a

student at Harvard, gay architect designed his Cambridge residence on Ash St.

55 Sanders Theater-At Sanders Theater at Harvard, lesbian activists organized a

56 Philips Brookes House-Harvard Yard- Men of All Colors Together meets

poetry reading with Audre Lorde and Adrienne Rich to benefit the Support

Group for Women's Safety, an organization formed in response to a rash of

here. Founded in 1980 by John Bush, this group provides a support system for

men in interracial relationship, provides education around AIDS and HIV and

in 1866, was the home of the famed James family. Though overshadowed by

brush it aside would be almost an act of impiety." Henry James' own sexuality

58 City Hall- Ken Reeves, the first African-American, openly gay mayor

59 183 Prospect St.- In the fall of 1970, the Gay Liberation Front planned a dance

on the campus of M.I.T. The dean of the university at the time would not allow the

dance to be held because it might traumatize the students. Activists threatened

provision of \$500 for the founding of a gay community center at this address.

to close M.I.T. with sit-ins and other protests. A compromise involved the dean's

brother Henry. Alice was brilliant in her own right, and her diary was published to

critical acclaim. Of her love relationship with Katherine Loring Peabody, Henry James wrote, "a devotion so perfect and generous...was a gift so rare...that to

57 Alice James-20 Quincy St. NLS- A plaque marks the address that, beginning

women in Roxbury in 1979. Though not an exclusively lesbian group,

other women of color. During its six years of existence, this black women's group worked on many issues including reproductive freedom,

lesbian socializing and organizing in the 70s and early 80s.

was located the Feminist Credit Union.

Liberation has been meeting there weekly.

murders of black women in the late 70s.

has long been a subject of speculation.

of Cambridge was elected in 1992.

hosts an annual Martin Luther King Day brunch.

Cambridge

Bouvier 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, MA 02139, or BGLAD at 617.859.3055.

For additions/ corrections to Location, please contactBAGLHP c/o Libby

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and Gay History Project The Boston Area Lesbian

The Map Collective



Bouvier 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, MA 02139. hibit. For more information, please contact, BALGHP, clo Lobby culture. Loaction will form an organizational element of the extions that developped out of and in support of lesbian and gay other by necessity or choice, and the organizations and instituand private places where gay men and lesbians looked for each sions of homosexuality. The exhibit will also consider the public views and stereopypes, and the personal and spiritual dimenand will trace their history as a counterpoint between societal lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals in Boston, scheduled for June of 1996, will explore the changing image of Private Lives: Boston's Lesbian and Gay History. This exhibit, Project is in the process of creating the exhibit, Public Faces/ The Boston Area Lesbian and Gay History

nore information, contact co-chair Marc Maxwell AIA at month at the Architects' Building, 52 Broad St, Boston. For tects. Our meetings occur on the second Thursday of each affiliated with a local chapter of the American Institute of Archi-BGLAD is the only such organization in the country to be directly AIDS. As a committee of the Boston Society of Architects, lenge, a national design competition for housing for people with ants in the Boston area, and sponsored the AIDS 501 Chalestablished an annual contractors' networking event for consulttion, BGLAD participated in national conferences, conventions, voices in the design community. Prior to the production of Locatectural communities, providing a forum for gay and lesbian Designers has been involved in the local and national archi-Boston Gay and Lesbian Architects and

> AM ,notsoB .1S niobwoB 35 The Church of St. John the Evangelist

proceeds of which are given to local and national gay rights groups A Boston fundraising organization that sponsors benefit parties, all Grass Roots Gay Rights Fund

The Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, Thomas A. Menino, Mayor City of Boston

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production of Location possible. The Map Collective offers sincere The generous support of the following organizations has made the

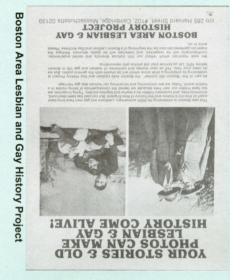
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suother is to carefully preserve this history of a people finding both each cution, understood themselves, formed communities, and lived their lives; of ways that these women and men, often in the face of enormous perseand writing lesbian and gay history is to unearth and explore the multiplicity structures may have been very different. One of the challenges of mapping resemble ours, their language, self-identification, social and relationship is important to remember that while their emotions and sexual activity may gischasing the lives of women and men who lived in previous centuries, it of individuals based on this desire is a fairly recent development. when tracted to their own gender, many scholars believe specific categorization ally specific. While there have always been men and women erotically at-Concepts of lesbian and gay identity are chronologically as well as culturpeople can be felt in the city and history of Boston.

systematic ways the influence of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered often intentially- or hidden. Location is intended as a partial survey of the city. This influence is sometimes direct and apparent; often it is obscured portant parts in helping to shape the history, culture and structure of the and men who were attracted to members of their own gender played imand transgender people in this history. From the earliest times, women country. The same is also true of the importance of lesbian, gay, bisexual pistory has helped shape how we view the ever-unfolding story of our of U.S. history. In the popular, as well as the historic imagination, Boston's From its earliest days, Boston has figured largely as one of the centers

orner - and themselves- for future generations of lesbians and gay men.

History, Boston and Identity



Transgender individuals and organizationsare indicated in bold. indicated on their entry by NLS. Names of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and streets and addresses listed on Location which are no longer standing are and the "Slum Clearance" of Scollay Square and the West End. Buildings, the last 350 years have included the landfill of the Back Bay and South End, bridge and Beacon Hill/ Scollay Square. Alterations to the city's form over In addition to a large map of central Boston, insets are provided of Cam-

Common as a reference point for this journey. cation to plan a trip through Boston's gay history may wish to use the understood from its"center", the Boston Common [8]. A visitor using Lo-A city labyrinthine in both history and physical form, Boston is perhaps best

Historical

Map of

Lesbian

and Gay

Boston

How to Use This Map



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Architecture Space Planning **Project Management Facility Planning**

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Boston Gay and Lesbian Architects and Designers

The Boston Area Lesbian and Gay **History Project**





History Project Lesbian and Gay The Boston Area

and Designers Architects and Lesbian Boston Gay

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Boston and Gay Lesbian Map of Historical

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How to Use This Map

A city labyrinthine in both history and physical form, Boston is perhaps best understood from its"center", the Boston Common [8]. A visitor using Location to plan a trip through Boston's gay history may wish to use the Common as a reference point for this journey

In addition to a large map of central Boston, insets are provided of Cambridge and Beacon Hill/ Scollay Square. Alterations to the city's form over the last 350 years have included the landfill of the Back Bay and South End, and the "Slum Clearance" of Scollay Square and the West End. Buildings, streets and addresses listed on Location which are no longer standing are indicated on their entry by NLS. Names of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals and organizations are indicated in bold.



History, Boston and Identity

From its earliest days, Boston has figured largely as one of the centers of U.S. history. In the popular, as well as the historic imagination, Boston's history has helped shape how we view the ever-unfolding story of our country. The same is also true of the importance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in this history. From the earliest times, women and men who were attracted to members of their own gender played important parts in helping to shape the history, culture and structure of the city. This influence is sometimes direct and apparent; often it is obscured often intentially- or hidden. Location is intended as a partial survey of the systematic ways the influence of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people can be felt in the city and history of Boston.

Concepts of lesbian and gay identity are chronologically as well as culturally specific. While there have always been men and women erotically attracted to their own gender, many scholars believe specific categorization of individuals based on this desire is a fairly recent development. When discussing the lives of women and men who lived in previous centuries, it is important to remember that while their emotions and sexual activity may resemble ours, their language, self-identification, social and relationship structures may have been very different. One of the challenges of mapping and writing lesbian and gay history is to unearth and explore the multiplicity of ways that these women and men, often in the face of enormous persecution, understood themselves, formed communities, and lived their lives; another is to carefully preserve this history of a people finding both each other - and themselves- for future generations of lesbians and gay men.

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AIDS Vigil 1993

The Boston Area Lesbian

and Gay History Project

Michael Bronski Sarah Grant Tom Huth AIA Michael Lowentha **Niel Miller** Stephen Nonack Laura Pattison

Nancy Richard John Willoughby

and inspiration.

Gay Almanac have been an indispensible source of information

We are especially grateful to John Affuso, the Mayor's Liaison to the Lesbian and Gay Community for his invaluable help and enthusiasm for this project.

And for their technical assistance, Chris Clark, David Dixon FAIA, Tim

For additions/ corrections to Location, please contactBAGLHP c/o Libby

provision of \$500 for the founding of a gay community center at this address. to close M.I.T. with sit-ins and other protests. A compromise involved the dean's dance to be held because it might traumatize the students. Activists threatened on the campus of M.I.T. The dean of the university at the time would not allow the 183 Prospect St.- In the fall of 1970, the Gay Liberation Front planned a dance

of Cambridge was elected in 1992. 58 City Hall- Ken Reeves, the first African-American, openly gay mayor

has long been a subject of speculation. brush it aside would be almost an act of impiety." Henry James' own sexuality James wrote, "a devotion so perfect and generous...was a gift so rare...that to critical acclaim. Of her love relationship with Katherine Loring Peabody, Henry brother Henry, Alice was brilliant in her own right, and her diary was published to in 1866, was the nome of the tamed James ramily. I hough overshadowed by 57 Alice James-20 Quincy St. NLS-A plaque marks the address that, beginning

hosts an annual Martin Luther King Day brunch. men in interracial relationship, provides education around AIDS and HIV and here. Founded in 1980 by John Bush, this group provides a support system for Philips Brookes House-Harvard Yard- Men of All Colors Together meets

murders of black women in the late 70s. Group for Women's Safety, an organization formed in response to a rash of poetry reading with Audre Lorde and Adrienne Rich to benefit the Support Sanders Theater-At Sanders Theater at Harvard, lesbian activists organized a

student at Harvard, gay architect designed his Cambridge residence on Ash St. entries referring to his infatuation with fellow undergraduate Martin Gay. While a Frank; and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson, who authored many journal Adrienne Rich and Frank O'Hara; openly gay Mass. congressman Barney homophilic list would no doubt include, writers Gertrude Stein, Horatio Alger studied here- or had sex in the bathrooms- would be long indeed. Such a 54 Harvard and Radcliffe- A roster of queer luminaries to have either taught or

Also located here is the local headquarters of the National Lesbian and Gay

rights group in the nation, and this is the sole remaining chapter in the country. has been where the Daughters of Bilitis has met. D.O.B. was the first lesbian 53 Old Cambridge Baptist Church-1151 Mass. Ave- Since the late '70s this

Liberation has been meeting there weekly. Project and Lesbian Mothers' Support Group. Since 1971, Lesbian ter was also the meeting place for the Lesbian Therapy Research much of its leadership and many of its members were lesbians. The Cenwomen in Roxbury in 1979. Though not an exclusively lesbian group, society. The group did a great deal of work around murders of black violence against women and racism, sexism and heterosexism within our women's group worked on many issues including reproductive freedom, other women of color. During its six years of existence, this black Collective, which was founded in Roxbury in 1974 by Barbara Smith and active resource center was the meeting place of the Combanee River 52 Cambridge Women's Center-46 Pleasant St.- Founded in 1971, this still

was located the Feminist Credit Union. the same address was focus counselling for women. Across the street Boston area. The original location of New Words was in Somerville. Also ective, New Words is now the major lesbian/feminist bookstore in the 51 New Words-186 Hampshire Street- Founded in 1974 by a women's col-

lesbian socializing and organizing in the 70s and early 80s. black feminist musical/artistic group of the mid-70s. These restaurants and their counterpart Beetles Lunch in Allston were important places for and a variety of artists were showcased regularly. This was where meetings were held for the Bessie Smith Memorial Production Collective, a ters. Audre Lorde, Mtozake Shange, Tillie Olsen, Alice Walker, Kate Millet its successor Amaranth were women owned restaurants and cultural cen-50 Bread and Roses-134 Hampshire Street-1974-78- Bread and Roses and

Cambridge

1985 and is remembered as a local hero. His name is misspelled on the plaque. Sporters and community activist. Sawyer, who lived on Garden St. died of AIDS in a sign marks this street intersection in honor of Gerry Sawyer, a bartender at 77 Gerry Sawyer Square-Cambridge and Garden Sts.- A few yards from Sporters

mentioned in John Reid's 1973 autobiography The Best Little Boy in the World. 1957, Sporters became the most popular gay bar in New England after it was 76 Sporters-228 Cambridge St.- A Beat poet hangout before it became a gay bar in

1961, he founded the Boston Demophile Society. He died in 1973. abomidable and detestable crime against nature." After Mattachine dissolved in the repeal of the state's sex laws, which stipulated 20 years' imprisonment for "the Society in 1959, Townsend, an experimental architect by profession, lobbied for 75 Prescott Townsend-15 Lindall Pl.- Founder of Boston chapter of the Mattachine

Boston marriage with Ethel Power. in the integration of architecture, technology and landscape, she maintained a Raymond in 1926, who practiced in the Boston area until the late 40's. Interested 74 112 Charles St. The garden at this address was designed by architect Eleanor

of Uranian Love, a study of boy-love in ancient Greece (1928). were kept from public view for many years) and authored the notorious A Defense tiquities for the Museum of Fine Arts (including homoerotic Greek vases, which rue absence of aesthetic symbathy" and moved to Europe where he collected anjected life in Boston, and "the traditions of Puritanism, the ugliness of the men and

scene in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, he was friendly with Isabella many other buildings in the Boston area. An important figure in Boston's arts signed the interior of The Lady Chapel at The Church of the Advent as well as

72 Ralph Adams Cram-99 PinckneySt. - America's greatest church architect, he de-

Cushman [Miss Cameron in Jo's Boys] and Emma Stebbins. She lived here in Fashioned Girl. She was very close with other Boston feminists Charlotte Women, she presented the Boston marriage as an ideal arrangement in An Old 71 Louisa May Alcott-43 Pinckney St. - The author of the ever-popular Little

streets are like buttercups in the meadows." memorable metaphor attributed to him is "These young buds of manhood in the 70 Henry David Thoreau-4 Pinckney St.- The author of Walden resided here. A

tation dwindled, and has only recently been revived. his prints and negatives. Though he continued to produce brilliant work, his repucated here from 1894 to the turn of the century when a fire destroyed virtually all Gibran. Friendly with Oscar Wilde and Aubrey Beardsley, his studio was loas a mentor to many young men whom he photographed, including Kanili Day [1864-1933] was famous as a photographer obsessed with the male form and 69 F. Holland Day -9 Pinckney St.- A leader in the aesthetic group The Decadents,

Annie Fields until her death in 1909. Country of Pointed Firs and Deephaven resided here 30 years with companion 68 Sarah Orne Jewett-148 Charles St.-NLS- Jewett, the author of novels The

etry section, this early gay-run bookstore also sold pornography and 67 Esplanade Paperback-107 Charles St.-Reputed to have a cruisy po-

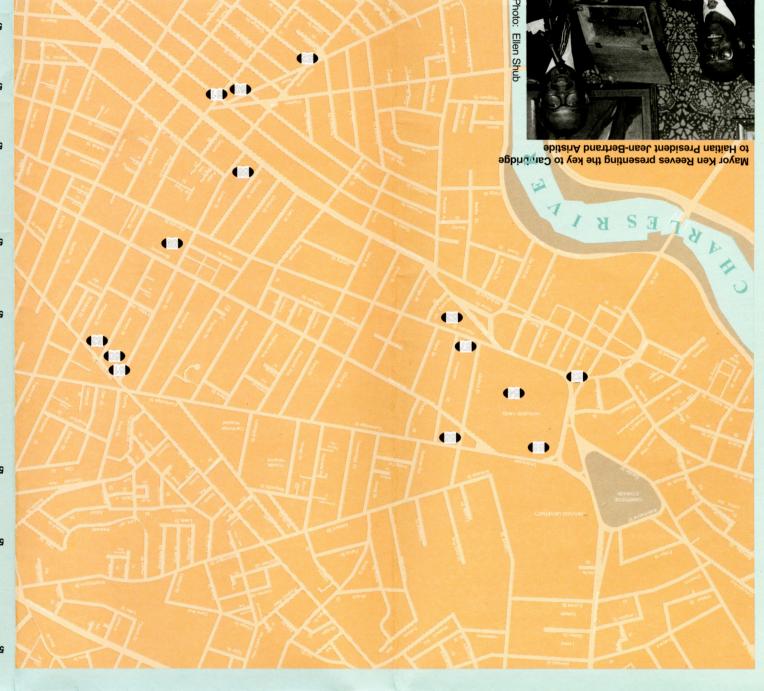
has blessed gay marriages of parish members since 1990. also the site of services for Dignity, the gay Catholic group. St. John's meeting place of Boston Area Gay and Lesbian Youth [BAGLY]. It is the Student Homophile League, two early gay groups, and is the curren was the meeting spot of the Homophile Union of Boston and

rect result of this action Resource Center [x], and Gay Women's Liberation (later Lesbian Liberation) were a di-Center. Manywomen 'came out' during this tenday occupation, and the foundation of the Women's ing forten days. This protestwas undertken to dramatize the need for a community-based Women's

by Charles Bedard, Cambridge City Councilor Katherine Triantafillou, and by former state rep. 64 WCAS-380 Green St.-The first gay radio show in Boston aired here. "Closet Space" was hosted

Bookstore, this group met here in the early 70's when it was called 60 Gay Male Liberation-91 River St.- Now called the Lucy Parson

schools, religious organizations, the medical and gay communities. meets in Jamaica Plain, and conducts educational workshops in Enterprise, a peer support group for female-to-male transexuals worldwide. Located in Waltham, IFGE publishes the TV/TS Tapestry. mation resource for 300 transgender groups and 10,000 individuals 62 888 Memorial Drive-Saturday, March 6, 1971 over 200 women occupied this Harvard-owned buildtion, an organization founded in 1986, serves as a education and inforder community. The International Foundation for Gender Educa-Pride, which organizes participation in Pride celebrations by the gen-Founded in '90, an off-shoot of AXA is the group Iransgender dressers, prez post-operative transexuals, transgenders meets nere. 63 AXA- 22 JFK- The Amazon Cross-Dressers, an group of cross-



gay activists at his residence.

Mayor Flynn's failure to promptly appoint a commission led to a sit-in by is seen as a precursor to state-wide civil rights protection in 1989. sus and gays. Written by openly gay city councilor David Scondras, it nance, the first legislation in the state to protect the civil rights of lesbi-79 City Hall- 1984 marked the passage of the Boston Human Rights Ordi-

china, Gay Liberation Front activists gathered on Tax Day in 1970. 78 JFK Federal Building-City Hall Plaza- To protest the war in Indo-

meets at Temple Sinai in Brookline. sexual Jews, Am Tikva met here. Founded in '77, Am Tikva now cessor oraganization to Boston's community of lesbian, gay and bigay rights pioneer Iroy Perry, who spoke here in 1972. The predetan Community Church are held here. MCC was founded by 81 Old West Church-131 Cambridge St.- Services of the Metropoli-

Crawford House were places where gay people met during Prohibi-80 Scollay Square NLS - Speakeasies in the 20's and 30's, such as





Designers has been involved in the local and national archi-

tectural communities, providing a forum for gay and lesbian voices in the design community. Prior to the production of Location, BGLAD participated in national conferences, conventions. established an annual contractors' networking event for consultants in the Boston area, and sponsored the AIDS 501 Challenge, a national design competition for housing for people with AIDS. As a committee of the Boston Society of Architects, BGLAD is the only such organization in the country to be directly affiliated with a local chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Our meetings occur on the second Thursday of each month at the Architects' Building, 52 Broad St, Boston. For more information, contact co-chair Marc Maxwell AIA at 617.666.9222.

The Boston Area Lesbian and Gay History

Project is in the process of creating the exhibit, Public Faces/ Private Lives: Boston's Lesbian and Gay History. This exhibit, scheduled for June of 1996, will explore the changing image of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals in Boston. and will trace their history as a counterpoint between societal views and stereopypes, and the personal and spiritual dimensions of homosexuality. The exhibit will also consider the public and private places where gay men and lesbians looked for each other by necessity or choice, and the organizations and institutions that developped out of and in support of lesbian and gay culture. Loaction will form an organizational element of the exhibit. For more information, please contact, BALGHP, c/o Lobby Bouvier 46 Pleasant St. Cambridge, MA 02139.

The Map Collective **Grass Roots Gay Rights Fund** A Boston fundraising organization that sponsors benefit parties, all

Boston Gay and Lesbian Architects and Designers

Libby Bouvier

George Arnold **David Freed** Dana Laudani Michael Lok

Brian Potter

Special Thanks to Michael Lowenthal and Michael Bronski for generous permission to quote from previously published writings; to Kenneth Dumas, cartographer; to Deborah Rich and Susan Fleischman for donations of photographs to this project; and to Jonathan Ned Katz, whose works Gay American History and The Lesbian and

Many thanks to the following for their stories and information.

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Howell, Mee Lee, Mark Merante, and Rothman Rothman Heineman

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66 The Church of St. John the Evangelist-35 Bowdoin St.- This Beacon Hill, Scollay Square